U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-171-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67958

PROJECT NAME: 6" surface pipeline Left Fork 6502 with staging areas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 99 W.,
Sec. 14, SW¼NW¼, E½SW¼, SW¼SE¼;
Sec. 15, S½NE¼, S½NW¼, NW¼SW¼;
Sec. 16, N½SE¼.

APPLICANT: EnCana Gathering Services (USA) Inc.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: EnCana has applied for a 6-inch surface pipeline to connect the Left Fork 6502 well.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the laying of a 6-inch surface pipeline to connect the Left Fork 6502 well to the compressor station at Stake Springs/Corral Creek. The permanent width will be 30 feet. The total length will be 12,700 feet encompassing 8.75 acres more or less. The right-of-way will not be cleared of vegetation since the pipe is being laid on the surface. It will be dragged along the right-of-way route by a dozer.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative the application would be denied and a different transportation method would have to be found.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

NEED FOR THE ACTION: An application has been received for a surface pipeline.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River Resource Area has been designated as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during construction, from fugitive dust being blown into the air.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, there would be no adverse affects on air quality.

Mitigation: The operator will utilize dust abatement measures to control fugitive dust as needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The revised pipeline route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (O'Brien 2004, Compliance Dated 10/06/2004) with no cultural resources identified in the pipeline right-of-way. Two sites (5RB 138 and 141) were avoided by the proposed route

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Noxious weeds found in the area of the proposed action include houndstongue, musk, Canada , and bull thistle. The invasive species cheatgrass also occurs in the project area, primarily on disturbed areas adjacent to roads.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create disturbed areas which, if they are not promptly revegetated, will provide safe sites for the establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds and cheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mixture #3. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: There are a number of migratory birds that fulfill nesting functions in adjacent Wyoming big sagebrush and pinyon-juniper types during the months of May, June, and July, including several species identified as having higher conservation interest by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program (i.e., Brewer's sparrow, green-tailed towhee, gray flycatcher, juniper titmouse, black-throated gray warbler, and violet-green swallow). This pipeline alignment closely parallels existing roads (including about 900' of new well access) and maintained county roads that traverse intermixed pinyon-juniper and mixed big sagebrush/serviceberry communities. The roadside surface alignment would largely involve pinyon-juniper regeneration encroaching on mixed shrub types or reestablishment on past road clearing through woodland communities.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This pipeline is scheduled to be constructed in the late fall or early winter 2004 and, given this timing, activities associated with this project would have no potential to influence on avian breeding activity. In the event construction delays extended into the 2005 breeding season, the impacts associated with this project would be negligible. The pipeline alignment would closely parallel existing BLM, well access, and maintained county roads, where persistent vehicle activity strongly reduces the utility of roadside habitats for nesting. Additionally, roadside habitats are comprised primarily of tree regeneration, an early seral woodland stage that does not support a strong contingent of obligate woodland species due to suboptimal nest substrate (e.g., low stature and low diversity canopy structure, lack of cavities). The project would involve no further modification of adjacent woodland or shrubland habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to disrupt the breeding activities of migratory birds.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no animals listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act that are known to inhabit or derive important benefit from that area potentially influenced by the proposed action.
There are several BLM sensitive species that could ostensibly occupy pinyon-juniper woodlands and mixed shrub communities adjacent to the proposed pipeline alignment.

Pinyon-juniper woodlands contribute little to northern goshawk distribution, abundance, and population viability, although in this Resource Area, goshawk are rare breeding species in mature mid-elevation pinyon-juniper woodlands as low as 6500'. Nesting birds appear to prefer large contiguous tracts of mature woodlands deep (1000 or more feet) in stand interiors. A BLM biologist surveyed the southern 2000' of this pipeline for raptor nest activity in the summer of 2004 with no positive results. The remaining portion of the line, because of its position relative to existing roads and the younger age-class and open-canopy character of adjacent woodlands, has no reasonable potential to support raptor nest activity, particularly goshawk.

A limited number of BLM-sensitive Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed and Yuma myotis have been collected from western Colorado's semi-desert shrublands and woodlands. Core distribution of these bats is correlated with the availability of caves, cave-like roosting habitat (mines), and buildings for night, maternity, and hibernation roosts, but these species have been found to roost in small numbers under exfoliating bark, in cavities, or vertical cracks in live and dead trees. Bat abundance in the project area is likely constrained by the paucity of maternity and hibernation roost habitat that could harbor large numbers of bats. The nearest geology conducive to the formation of caves is over 30 miles east or northwest of the project area. Roost features in woodland habitats would ostensibly be best served by mature large-diameter pinyon and juniper trees. Because mature woodlands, representing potential roost substrate for small numbers of bats, are well distributed in the project area, it is reasonable to assume the project area supports small numbers of bats (especially solitary males) during the summer months.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This pipeline is likely to be constructed in the late fall or early winter 2004 and, given this timing, activities associated with the project would not coincide with potential goshawk nesting or bat summer roosting activities in adjacent woodlands. In the event construction delays extend pipeline installation into the spring or summer of 2005, the potential for substantive nest or roost site disruption (i.e., mature woodlands removed from roadside influences) would continue to be negligible. The pipeline alignment does not involve habitats considered favorable for goshawk nesting use (i.e., along existing roads on woodland margins) and because right-of-way preparation would involve no clearing of vegetation, installation would have no consequence on adjacent woodland character.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to disrupt special status species or their habitat.

Mitigation: The proposed action has undergone substantive modification in response to wildlife-generated concerns. The applicant has incorporated these earlier concerns into a revised proposed action that represents de facto mitigation. Rather than a standard buried pipeline having a lengthy cross-country component that involved substantial clearing, much within

mature pinyon-juniper woodlands, the applicant's proposal is now represented by a surface line that would be placed adjacent to existing roads. By rerouting this pipeline, the applicant has voluntarily avoided many of the potential long term effects of corridor clearing in woodland habitats (e.g., issues associated with habitat continuity and patch size), particularly on non-game animal components.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed and no-action alternatives would have no influence on populations or habitats of animals associated with the Endangered Species Act, and as such, would have no influence on the status of applicable land health standards. On a landscape scale, the project area meets the land health standards as applied to BLM sensitive species. Because neither the proposed nor the no- action alternatives would alter habitat character or function in the project vicinity, their implementation would remain consistent with continued meeting of the standards for special status species.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in Stake Springs and Right Fork Stake Springs which are tributary to Yellow Creek and the White River. This portion of creek is identified in segment 13b, mainstem of Yellow Creek, including all tributaries from the source to the confluence with the White River.

A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. All actions are within the White River watershed.

The State has designated this segment as "Use Protected". They further classified this stream segment as Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule does not apply to segments that are considered to be use protected. For these drainages, on the parameters listed in the table apply.

USGS operated a gaging station on Stake Springs from 1976-1977. The station was located approximately 1 mile from its confluence with Yellow Creek. Records indicate the stream to be ephemeral running in direct response to precipitation events. Recorded specific conductance ranges from 180 to 700micromhos, with a pH of 8.4.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Because the proposed action is to drag the surface pipeline into place, disturbance to the protective vegetative cover will be minimal. As a result disturbance that would expose bare soils and cause increase sedimentation and erosion are not expected.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality of the area currently meets the State water quality standards (upon which the Public Land Health Standard is based) and would continue to do so with the implementation of this project.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The nearest riparian vegetation is borne by Stake Springs Draw, an intermittent channel that, in the project vicinity, normally supports a narrow, discontinuous riparian fringe of facultative (e.g., redtop, foxtail barley) and obligate (sedge-rush) herbaceous forms. The last 2 years of drought have reduced riparian expression in this channel and little riparian expression presently persists at the stream crossing (private lands). The intermittent character of this channel transitions to an ephemeral type about 3 miles downstream until small perennial flows are intersected on Yellow Creek (2 additional miles downstream).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Because of the limited amount of surface disturbance associated with surface pipeline installation and the selected crossing of Stake Springs at an established county road crossing, pipeline installation would have no effective influence on riparian expression or channel function.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any conceivable influence on downstream riparian communities.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The proposed and no-action alternatives would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of downstream channel or riparian systems. The proposed action is even more distantly removed from the nearest BLM-administered lands (i.e., an additional 4 miles in Yellow Creek) and surface pipeline installation is expected to have no potential to influence the status of land health standards as applied to those stream reaches.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Baseline soils data have been collected for Rio Blanco County by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and are published in an order III Soil Survey and is available for review from that office. The proposed surface pipeline is in the soil mapping units found in the table below. This table identifies soil characteristics for these soil types.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
36	Glendive fine sandy loam		Foothills Swale	2-4	Slow	Slight	>60
41	Havre loam	0-4%	Foothill Swale	<4	Medium	Slight	>60
70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex	5-30%	PJ woodlands/PJ woodlands	<2	Very high	Moderate to high	10-20
73	Rentsac channery loam	5-50%	Pinyon-Juniper woodlands	<2	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
91	Torriorthents-Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	Stoney Foothills		Rapid	Very high	10-20

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Because the proposed action is to drag the surface pipeline into place, disturbance to the protective vegetative cover will be minimal. As a result disturbance that would expose bare soils and cause increase sedimentation and erosion are not expected.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils meet the criteria set forth for Public land Health Standards for upland soils. This status is not expected to change with implementation of the proposed action.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline traverses both pinyon- juniper and Wyoming big sagebrush plant communities. Pinyon and juniper are encroaching into the Wyoming big sagebrush parks.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Even though a surface line is proposed, the principal impact to vegetation will be virtually complete removal of all brush and tree-like vegetation on the pipeline right of way and the earthen disturbance associated with it. In terms of plant community composition, structure and function, the principal negative impact over the long term would occur if invasive species or noxious weeds are allowed to establish and proliferate on the disturbed areas resulting from pipeline construction.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mixture #3. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Upland plant communities in the project area meet the Standard and will continue to meet the Standard after implementation of the proposed action.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The nearest downstream system supporting aquatic wildlife communities are private reaches of Yellow Creek (about 9 miles downstream of the nearest point of pipeline).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Because of the limited amount of surface disturbance associated with the installation of surface pipelines and the lengthy downstream separation of construction activity from aquatic habitats via ephemeral and/or intermittent channels, there is no reasonable probability of aquatic habitats being influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence downstream aquatic habitats. Alternate locations would likely have impacts similar to those associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed and no-action alternatives would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of downstream aquatic habitats (privately owned). These actions are even more distantly removed from the nearest BLM-administered lands (i.e., an additional 4 miles in Yellow Creek) and they would have no potential to influence the status of land health standards as applied to those stream reaches.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline alignment would be encompassed by higher elevation winter ranges of deer and within the general winter distribution of elk. These ranges are most consistently occupied by the largest number of animals from October through January and again in April and early May. The entire pipeline corridor lies adjacent to existing well access and/or county roads. None of the locations involves woodland habitats that are suitable for woodland raptor nesting.

Non-game wildlife using this area are typical and widely distributed in extensive like habitats across the Resource Area and northwest Colorado; there are no narrowly endemic or highly specialized species known to inhabit those lands potentially influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although displacement of big game is likely to occur in the immediate vicinity of active pipeline construction, the effects would be minor since the project area involves extensive general winter ranges (i.e., dwindling animal density after late December) and the activity would be narrowly confined to an existing county road corridor. There would be no reduction in the herbaceous and woody forage base for big game. Similarly, there would be no effective loss of forage and cover for non-game animals.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would influence local habitat character or animal populations.

Mitigation: The proposed action has undergone substantive modification in response to wildlife-generated concerns. The applicant has incorporated these concerns into a revised proposed action that represents de facto mitigation. Rather than a standard buried pipeline

having a lengthy cross-country component that involved substantial clearing, much within mature pinyon-juniper woodlands, the applicant's proposal is now represented by a surface line that would be placed adjacent to existing roads. By rerouting this pipeline, the applicant has voluntarily avoided many of the potential long term effects of corridor clearing in woodland habitats (e.g., issues associated with habitat continuity and patch size), particularly on non-game animal components.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project area meets the public land health standards for terrestrial animal communities. As modified (see mitigation), the proposed action and no-action alternatives would have negligible short-term and virtually no long-term influence on the utility or function of big game, raptor, or nongame habitats in the project vicinity.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline is located in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation, meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be no impacts to fossil resources from a surface pipeline. However, should EnCana wish to bury the pipeline in the future there is the potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: None.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action traverses two grazing allotments, Reagles (06026) and Square S (06027). The pasture of the Reagle allotment where the action occurs is grazed by cattle in the spring and fall. The part of the Square S allotment where the project occurs is used as a spring/fall transitional pasture by cattle.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be no impacts if the stated fence mitigation is applied.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant will be required to maintain integrity of the allotment of the allotment boundary fence in the bottom of Stake Springs at all times if project construction occurs between May 1 and October 15.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within a VRM Class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed surface steel pipeline would be installed parallel to constructed and existing roads. By allowing the steel pipeline to oxidize naturally to a brown earth tone, the color contrast would be slight and should not attract attention and would not dominate the view of a casual observer. Since the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low, the standards of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no additional environmental impacts from the no action alternative.

Mitigation: Use steel pipeline that is uncoated and not wrapped for burial and allow oxidizing naturally.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities are

addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED

O'Brien, Patrick K.
2004 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed EnCana Oil & Gas Left Fork 6502 Pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeological	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	NRS	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The operator will utilize dust abatement measures to control fugitive dust as needed.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone,

with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

4. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mixture #3. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

5. The proposed action has undergone substantive modification in response to wildlife-generated concerns. The applicant has incorporated these earlier concerns into a revised proposed action that represents de facto mitigation. Rather than a standard buried pipeline having a lengthy cross-country component that involved substantial clearing, much within mature pinyon-juniper woodlands, the applicant's proposal is now represented by a surface line that would be placed adjacent to existing roads. By rerouting this pipeline, the applicant has voluntarily avoided many of the potential long term effects of corridor clearing in woodland habitats (e.g., issues associated with habitat continuity and patch size), particularly on non-game animal components.

6. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed action.

7. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mixture #3. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

Native Seed Mixture #3:

Western wheatgrass	Rosanna	2
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Secar	2
Thickspike wheatgrass	Critana	2
Indian ricegrass	Nezpar	1
Fourwing saltbush	Wytana	1
Utah sweetvetch		1

Total 9 lbs/acre PLS

8. The applicant will be required to maintain integrity of the allotment of the allotment boundary fence in the bottom of Stake Springs at all times if project construction occurs between May 1 and October 15.

9. Use steel pipeline that is uncoated and not wrapped for burial and allow to oxidize naturally.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER:

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 10/25/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the location of the proposed action.

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Location of Proposed Action
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